



HARRIS, WILTSHIRE
& GRANNIS LLP

March 10, 2017

Ex Parte

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, CG Docket No. 03-123; *Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program*, CG Docket No. 10-51

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 9, 2017, Scott Wood and Lance Pickett of Sorenson Communications, LLC (“Sorenson”), Rebekah Goodheart of Jenner & Block, outside counsel to Sorenson, and I, outside counsel to Sorenson, met with Claude Aiken, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn, regarding the Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“FNPRM”) tentatively scheduled for consideration at the Commission’s meeting on March 23, 2017.

We raised the points previously summarized in my ex parte letter of March 7, 2017, which is incorporated by reference herein.¹ We also explained that Sorenson is the largest employer of deaf individuals outside of the federal government, with deaf individuals in approximately half of the positions that do not require hearing. We also discussed the substantial efforts that Sorenson has made to develop and provide VRS services and functionalities that are specifically tailored to the needs of a deaf user, and advance the functional equivalency of VRS. We noted that none of our proposals seek to have the Commission incorporate Sorenson’s historical debt levels and associated debt service into the determination of VRS rates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John T. Nakahata'.

John T. Nakahata
Counsel to Sorenson Communications, LLC

cc: Claude Aiken

¹ See Letter from John T. Nakahata, Counsel to Sorenson Communications, LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, CG Docket Nos. 03-123, 10-51 (filed Mar. 7, 2017).